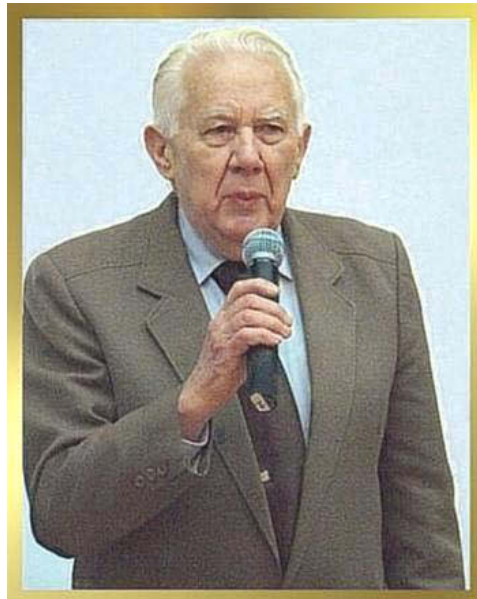


EDITORIAL

This volume starts from the 7 articles which were presented during Scientific Symposium *in memoriam* Stanisław Szpikowski (1926–2014), professor of theoretical physics at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (UMCS), the founder of the Institute of Physics and the Department of Theoretical Physics. The Symposium held in March 27, 2015 – about half a year after his death in a car accident which has happened on return trip from vacations.

The Symposium was organized by our Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, the Department of Theoretical Physics, and the Lublin Division of the Polish Physical Society.



A number of famous physicists who had cooperated with prof. Szpikowski have participated in this Symposium. The participants exceptionally warmly recalled their collaboration with “Stan”. Among the invited speakers were: prof. Wiesław A. Kamiński, prof. Andrzej Gózdź and prof. Krzysztof Pomorski – all from UMCS, prof. dr h.c. Klaus Dietrich – from Technical University in Munich, prof. dr h.c. Adam Sobiczewski – from National Center of Nuclear Research Warsaw, and prof. Jerzy Dudek – from University of Strasbourg.

The early experimental work of Professor Szpikowski on the thermal diffusion was presented by his first PhD student – prof. J. Sielanko (UMCS). Other speakers: prof. Piotr Rozmej (University of Zielona Góra), Dr. Alexander Gusev (ZIBJ Dubna), prof. Krzysztof Rusek (UW), Dr. Johan Bartel (IPHC Strasbourg) and others presented their contemporary research. Some of them have submitted their papers to this volume.

At this point it is worth to memorize that the whole vol. XL/XLI (1985/1986) of *Annales UMCS sectio AAA (Physica)* was dedicated to Professor Szpikowski on the occasion of his 60th birthday. That volume contains a special Foreword by prof. Mieczysław Subotowicz (the Editor-in-Chief those years) and 43 regular papers written by numerous colleagues, friends and pupils of Professor Szpikowski.

Finally it is worth to note the increasing number of submissions to *Annales UMCS* from abroad. We would like to express our sincere thanks to the authors from France, Holland, Iran, Italy and Africa. We thank our reviewers for their effort and criticism.

Prof. dr hab. Stanisław Hałas, Editor-in-Chief
Dr. Tomasz Pieńkos, Secretary